

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT L 00786 140309Z
ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7635

UNCLAS PORT LOUIS 0786

FOR AF/E - KATHY SMITH

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR DCM-DESIGNATE PORT LOUIS

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING TO TOM BURKE.
2. AUTO MARKET IN MAURITIUS TENDS TOWARD SMALL CARS EQUIPPED WITH STANDARD OPTIONS. VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION, POWER STEERING AND BRAKES MUST BE SPECIAL ORDERED AND TAKE 6-8 MONTHS FOR DELIVERY. THIS INADVISABLE AS SPARE PARTS AND QUALIFIED MAINTENANCE FOR THESE OPTIONS NOT AVAILABLE HERE.
3. DUE RECENT IMPOSITION STRICT IMPORT RESTRICTIONS, CAR MARKET EXTREMELY TIGHT. THIS SITUATION LIKELY CONTINUE FOR 18 MONTHS OR MORE. HAVE LOCATED TWO STATION WAGONS IN CATEGORY MENTIONED YOUR LETTER: DATSUN 120Y AND MORRIS MARINA ESTATE WAGON. BOTH HAVE FOUR DOORS. DATSUN SELLS FOR 39,000 RUPEES DUTY FREE OR DOLS 6,331.00 AT TODAY'S RATE OF EXCHANGE. MORRIS COSTS 49,000 RUPEES DUTY FREE OR DOLS 7,954.00.
4. AN EMBASSY OFFICER, WHO IS 6 FEET 2 INCHES TALL, OWNS BOTH A DATSUN AND A MORRIS. OF THE TWO, HIS PREFERENCE IS THE MORRIS, WHICH HE SAYS IS QUITE COMFORTABLE AND PERFORMS WELL. THE DATSUN, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS EXTREMELY UNCOMFORTABLE ON BACK AND LEGS.

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5. BOTH DATSUN AND MORRIS DEALERS HAVE ONLY ONE STATION WAGON EACH IN STOCK. THEY HAVE AGREED TO HOLD THEM FOR ONE WEEK PENDING DECISION.

PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST.

6. DUE TO DISTANCES BETWEEN LIVING, WORKING AND SHOPPING AREAS, MOST OF OUR FAMILIES FIND IT ESSENTIAL TO HAVE TWO CARS. PRESENT DCM HAD

ONLY ONE CAR AND EMPLOYED A DRIVER FOR TRANSPORT TO EMBASSY. THIS MIGHT BE YOUR BEST SOLUTION ALSO.

7. ONE FINAL POINT. IF YOU ORDER CAR FROM EUROPE, IT IS POSSIBLE TO TAKE DELIVERY AS SOON AS 2-3 MONTHS. HOWEVER, DUE UNCERTAINTY OF SHIPPING, COULD ALSO TAKE 6-8 MONTHS.
KEELEY

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NNN

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